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The Plateau du Coteau du Missouri.

J. LUNELL.

When reading Doctor Greene's paper on North Dakota *Thalictra* I noted with satisfaction that introduction to the subject which took the form of an account of the particular topography of our region, and admired it all the more because I know that the writer had never visited this part of North Dakota, and did not doubt that he had gathered those important geographic data from maps chiefly; and I was gratified by this demonstration of the fact that four different floras meet here on neutral ground, intermingle and mutually impress one another. The present writer, having studied the botany of this territory for more than twenty years, can only confirm the correctness of Dr. Greene's theory.

The elevated barrier, whose real name is The Plateau du Coteau du Missouri, runs in a fairly straight direction from the northwestern corner of the state, where the elevation is about 2500 feet above the sea, to the southeastern end, and is the great divide between the Missouri basin on its western slope, and the basins of the Souris River and the Red River of the North on the east side of it. East of the Souris River the country rises about 500 feet above the prairie, or 2000 feet above the sea, and this elevation, called Turtle Mountains, is 40 miles long and 20 miles wide. No turtles are found there, but it had its name from the Indians on account of its fancied resemblance to that animal. It has quite many lakes, drained by rivulets which flow to the Souris. Where man has not interfered, it has a beautiful growth of *Quercus macrocarpa, Populus balsamifera candicans, deltoides* and *tremuloides, Betula papyrifera, Acer fraxinifolium, Fraxinus lanceolata, Ulmus fulva, Prunus pennsylvanica,* etc.,and plants like *Unifolium canadense, Limnorchis hyperborea, Streptopus roseus, Doellingeria umbellata pubens, Aster Saundersii, Rudbeckia ampla, Erigeron lonchophyllus,* etc., showing its tendency for making selections from different floras. The Souris enters the state from Canada, runs south, makes a bend, and returns to Canada. This bend has a length of about 75 miles and a width of 40 miles. In Canada it joins the Saskatsjavan River on its way to Lake Winnipeg, the same lake being the outlet for the Red River of the North, before all these waters jointly make a final dash for Hudson Bay. The flora of the Souris basin and adjoining prairies north and south of the Canadian boundary shows a striking similarity. In the early September anno 1902 I made an excursion to Assiniboia, 175 miles north of the boundary line, anticipating a rich harvest of Canadian fall plants. Along the track were growing everywhere *Helenium montanum,* a common North Dakota plant, and a beautiful *Coreopsis,* which I expected to collect when the train stopped at some station. But the Canadian stations were just like all other stations. *Chenopodium album, Sinapsis arvensis, Bursa Bursa-pastoris* and other familiar plants were the only floral representatives there. All native plants shun the stations. I failed to collect that *Coreopsis.* I left the train at Moose Jaw, searched the prairie, the waste places, the gravel pits and the thickets along the Saskatsjavan River, and but for one *Rosa* species and one variety of *Aster laevis* I found only old North Dakota acquaintances. On the other hand, one plant, accredited as exclusively Canadian, Bicknell's *Sisyrhinchium septentrionale,* grows a few rods from my residence lot at Leeds, North Dakota.

I have a limited knowledge of the flora west of the great divide. On May 2, 1903, I made an excursion lasting one hour, while I was waiting for the fast express train at Williston. I collected five species belonging to the Montana flora. East of the Coteau you will at this early season find only the flowers (not the leaves) of *Pulsatilla Ludoviciana.*

The woodland flora of the east is naturally best represented in protected localities where trees can grow. When entering such a wooded piece of land, you find that the change from the prairie flora is instantaneous. Very few plants adapt themselves to both conditions. Such a plant is *Steironema ciliatum,* which has a very rank and luxurious growth in the thicket, but dwindles down to half its ordinary size on the prairie. Another such plant is *Galium boreale,* which reaches a gigantic size, often several feet high, in the timber, and, as variety *linearifolium,* shrinks into dwarfish proportions on the prairie, having an intermediate size in localities only partly protected. But besides this flora of eastern affinities, the woodland has a flora of its own, although representatives of this class are not as numerous as would have been expected.

It is on the prairie east of the great plateau that all the four floras meet. Minnesota and Assiniboia contribute largely to it, and many plants for which the manuals set Nebraska as their northern boundary, grow here. And numerous Montana and Wyoming species jump the barrier. A conspicuous peculiarity of this flora is the abundance of varieties. You examine a plant with the aid of a manual, and the description is just as made for that special plant but for one or two characters, and you will often be in doubt if that variety actually ought to have its own Latin name or not. No doubt the four different floras share the responsibility of these aberrations. Immense spaces of the territory have never been visited by botanists, except as Government survey parties have passed across the country. The plow is incessantly doing its deadly work, it may be exterminating species that never were published.

Leeds, North Dakota.

Migration of Birds in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

BROTHER ALPHONSUS, C. S. C.

Some species of birds that arrived early in the spring of 1909 departed late in the summer. Such were the Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Vesper Sparrow and Loggerhead Shrike. The Cuckoos, among the latest of the migrants to arrive in the spring of the year, departed early in the autumn.

Individuals of certain species that had departed were seen on one or more days a considerable time after the dates of their departure. The Vesper Sparrow was found Oct. 1; the Cowbird, Oct. 4, 5, 15, 16; the Purple Grackle, Oct. 6, 9; the Yellow-throated Vireo, Oct. 11; the Towhee, Nov. 15; the Robin, Nov. 26; the Dove, Oct. 24 and Nov. 29.

The Bobolink, Dickcissel, Crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow Warbler and Whip-poor-will were not seen after the 14th of August. The writer having been absent from the county for six weeks